

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 274651

FOR ASSISTANT SEC ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 17714 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

BRASILIA BOGOTA ABIDJAN ADDIS ABABA ACCRA NAIROBI MONROVIA

YAOUNDE BANGUI LUSAKA LIBREVILLE LOME KIGALI FREETOWN KINSHASA

DTD 18 NOV

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17714

FOR EB KATZ: L - STOWE

E.O. LL652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EAGR, AOUS

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN DELEGATION TO COFFEE CONFERENCE

REF: (A) LONDON 17619 (B) STATE 270320

(C) LONDON 17553

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ANGOLAN CREDENTIAL ISSUE WAS AGAIN
SUBJECT OF INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS NOVEMBER 17. MAJOR
DEVELOPMENTS WERE (A) RECEIPT OF AN UNSIGNED CABLE BY
ICO FROM KINSHASHA PURPORTING TO ACCREDIT A RIVAL
DELEGATION (GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
ANGOLA); (B) CONSULTATION BETWEEN CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
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CHAIRMAN SCHWEISGUTH (FRANCE) AND MEDINA, WHO IS STILL

ATTEMPTING CLAIM ANGOLA SEAT ON BASIS OF EARLIER CREDENTIALS; (C) UNOFFICIAL MEETING OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, WITH U.S., FRANCE, FINLAND, BRAZIL, MEXICO AND OAMCAF (IVORY COAST REPRESENTING) PARTICIPATING. RE (O) MEDINA REPORTEDLY URGED APPLICATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA FORMULA (REF C) PENDING NOTIFICATION OF UN SEC GEN BY ANGOLA (READ MPLA) IN ACCORDANCE ARTICLE 65 OF ICA. RE (C), INFORMAL CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING DID NOT DEVELOP CLEAR CONSENSUS. WE REJECTED PAPUA NEW GUINEA FORMULA WITH ONLY BRAZIL ARGUING TO CONTRARY. WE ALSO ARGUED AGAINST SEATING ANY ANGOLAN DELEGATION, AND POINTED OUT ANGOLA PLACARD SHOULD BE REMOVED. FINLAND STRONGLY SUPPORTED US, BRAZIL OPPOSED REMOVING PLACARD, AND SOUGHT FORMULA FOR SEATING MEDINA. OTHERS EITHER REMAINED SILENT OR EQUIVOCATED. FORMAL CREDENTIALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 18, FOLLOWED BY COUNCIL MEETING WHERE COMMITTEE LIKELY TO BE CALLED UPON FOR REPORT. OUR ASSESSMENT BASICALLY REMAINS UNCHANGED FROM REF C. SOME COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY BRAZIL, CONTINUE TO EXPRESS WORRY ABOUT NON-REPRESENTATION OF ONE OF WORLD'S LARGEST COFFEE PRODUCERS, BUT DO NOT DIRECTLY DISPUTE OUR LEGAL POSITION ON RECOGNITION. MOST OTHERS WOULD PROBABLY PREFER SWEEPING IT UNDER THE RUG. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR INTENT TO NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEND NOVEMBER 18 COUNCIL SESSION - THEREBY DENYING QUORUM BY ABSENCE OF OUR 40 VOTE -- UNLESS PRIOR AGREEMENT REACHED IN CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE THAT (1) ANGOLA HAS NOT YET COMPLETED CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP AND THAT (2) NO ANGOLAN DEL SHOULD BE SEATED. WHILE WE PREPARED MAKE GOOD ON THREAT TO BLOCK BY BOYCOTTING COUNCIL SESSION, MOST LIKELY THIS COURSE WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES TACTICAL SITUATION ON ANGOLA RECOGNITION AS OF NOVEMBER 17: (A) SECRETARIAT RECEIVED CABLE FROM KINSHASHA OVER WEEKEND PURPORTING ACCREDIT RIVAL DEL. CABLE ADDRESSED TO EXEC DIRECTOR OF ICO BELTRAO, BUT UNSIGNED. TEXT FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE. HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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COFFEE ORGANIZATION BEEN (SIC) HELD LONDON. ANGOLA IS ONE OF WORLD'S GREAT COFFEE PRODUCERS. DISTRICTS OF CUANZA NORTE AND UÍJE WHICH PRODUCE WHOLE ANGOLAN COFFEE ENTIRELY UNDER OUR CONTROL. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA IS THEREFORE SENDING A TWO MAN DELEGATION COMPOSED OF MR. MANUEL DOMINGOS AND SEBASTIAO MAVITIDI. DELEGATION ARRIVING LONDON MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER. HIGH CONSIDERATION.

END QUOTE. SO FAR THERE IS NO SIGN OF ANY SUCH DELEGATION. (B) CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN AGAIN HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH ARTUR MEDINA, WHO CONTINUES PRESS HIS CLAIM TO ANGOLA SEAT. MEDINA MAINTAINS HE SHOULD REPRESENT ANGOLA AT CONFERENCE, AS HE HAD PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. HE TOLD SCHWEISGUTH THAT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 65 OF ICA, MPLA WOULD VERY SOON NOTIFY SECGEN OF ANGOLA'S ADHERENCE TO ICA. MEDINA STILL HAS NOT ATTEMPTED PRESENT MPLA CREDENTIALS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. HE ARGUED COUNCIL SHOULD DEEM ANGOLA A MEMBER PENDING UN NOTIFICATION, AS IT HAD DONE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA CASE. SCHWEISGUTH REPLIED PAPUA NEW GUINEA CASE WAS DIFFERENT SINCE COUNCIL HAD HAD FORMAL COMMUNICATION FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA OF ITS INTENTION TO NOTIFY UN SECGEN. SCHWEISGUTH IS UNCLEAR AS TO MEDINA'S INTENTIONS IF HIS STATUS AS OFFICIAL ANGOLAN REP IS NOT ACCEPTED BY COUNCIL OR IF ANGOLA DENIED SEAT AT COUNCIL. (C) CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE HELD "INFORMAL" MEETING TO DISCUSS SITUATION, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT ALL INSTRUCTED, A FORMAL MEETING WOULD BE HELD NEXT DAY BEFORE SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING. USDEL TOOK FIRM POSITION THAT NO CREDENTIALS COULD BE ACCEPTED FROM ANGOLA, NOTING NONE HAD BEEN RECEIVED, ANGOLA NO LONGER A MEMBER, AND MAJORITY OF MEMBERS, INCLUDING U.S., HAD NOT RECOGNIZED A GOVERNMENT. USDEL INDICATED WE WILLING TO WAIT END OF NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE MAKING FORMAL CREDENTIALS DECISION, BUT THAT ANGOLA PLACARD SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM MEETING ROOMS AND ANY ACTION IMPLYING RECOGNITION AVOIDED. USDEL ALSO NOTED CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN MORE QUICKLY IF OTHER PURPORTED ANGOLAN DELEGATES TRIED TO MAKE ISSUE OF REPRESENTATION PER PARA (A).
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(D) THIS MEETING DID NOT DEVELOP CLEAR CONSENSUS ON PROPER ACTION. FINNISH DEL, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, STRONGLY SUPPORTED U.S. POSITION ON ALL COUNTS. BRAZIL DEL, NOTING BRAZIL RECOGNIZES WHICHEVER GOVERNMENT HOLDS LUANDA, FELT IT BEST TO DELAY DECISION AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, HOPING ISSUE OF WHO CONTROLS ANGOLA WOULD CLARIFY. HE FELT IN INTERIM ANGOLA PLACE AT COUNCIL SESSION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND MEDINA SHOULD FILL IT. BRAZIL DEL ALSO INDICATED THAT PAPUA NEW GUINEA MIGHT BE PROPER PRECEDENT SINCE OTHERWISE (1) NO BASIC QUOTA COULD BE ASSIGNED TO ANGOLA AND (2) ANGOLA VOTES IN COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO BE REDISTRIBUTED. (SECOND POINT PROBABLY CORRECT BUT THIS IS NOT OF GREAT CONSEQUENCE.)
3. ASSESSMENT: THERE IS NO REAL OPPOSITION TO US

POSITION ON LEGAL GROUNDS BUT SINCE MOST COUNTRIES STILL
UNINSTRUCTED, DAY WAS ONE OF PROBING BY CREDENTIAL
CHAIRMAN AND SOME OTHERS FOR POSSIBLE COMPROMISE WHICH
WOULD PERMIT MEDINA TO REPRESENT ANGOLA WHILE AVOIDING
POLITICAL RECOGNITION PROBLEM. WE USED DAY BOTH FOR
ARGUING CASE ON MERITS AND SHOWING WE TOOK MATTER
SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO USE OUR FULL VOTING STRENGTH
IF NECESSARY FOR AN EFFECTIVE VETO VIA QUORUM PROVISIONS.
WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF OUR BEING PRESSED THAT
FAR AND MOST LIKELY OUTCOME IS THAT OUR POSITION WILL
CARRY WITHOUT THE MATTER COMING TO A FORMAL VOTE.
IN CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WE SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE
FINLAND AND IVORY COAST SUPPORT (THEY HAD LOW LEVEL
REPRESENTATION NOV. 17) AND PROBABLY OTHERS. WE, OF
COURSE, ARE NOT TAKING A POSITION AGAINST MEDINA
PERSONALLY, SO EVEN AFTER ANGOLAN PROBLEM SETTLED HERE
TO OUR SATISFACTION, HE MIGHT WELL CONTINUE TO SPEAK
ON ANGOLAN CODEFEE MATTERS BUT AS REPRESENTATIVE OF
PORTUGAL (OR ANY LEGITIMATE DELEGATION WHICH MIGHT
WISH TO TAKE HIM ON AS AN ACCREDITED MEMBER). POSSIBLE
SOLUTION MENTIONED PARA 7, REF C, I.E., REPORT OF
CREDENTIALS AS VALID AT TIME OF RECEIPT, HAS BEEN
DROPPED BY WAYSIDE. RICHARDSON UNQTE KISSINGER

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